

December. That means that the 1.3 million has already been budgeted for the next six months. I think it is somewhat unfair to the community, to the riders, to MAT, their employees and Douglas and Sarpy Counties. This cut would mean about 125 employees would lose their jobs in the next six months costing an additional \$400,000 roughly in unemployment insurance benefits, not to mention the hardship of unemployment for hundreds of Omahans. Property taxes would increase in Douglas and Sarpy Counties as MAT is funded in part, as I told you, by their own mill levy. Fares would increase for most bus riders, most of whom don't own automobiles, take the bus to work and earn less than \$20,000 a year. Bus service would decrease by thirty percent, meaning no buses on Saturdays, Sundays, holidays and evenings. Colleagues, this cut is simply unfair to the Douglas and Sarpy County area and we know it. I urge you to reject this cut by supporting this amendment because the real cost of this cut will be to increase property taxes in Douglas and Sarpy, cause unemployment and make bus service more difficult and expensive to those who depend upon it. Out of fairness, out of equity, I urge you to please support it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Haberman, Senator Lamb is next.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President and members of the body, I'm sorry to have to get up and oppose my good friend Senator Lynch.

PRESIDENT: Chizek.

SENATOR HABERMAN: However...

PRESIDENT: Senator Chizek or Lynch.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Senator...Senator...was that you talking? Senator Lynch, both of them. I'll take them both. He made the remark this is going to cause property tax increase. Well, if you will just look at the map that was put out here a month ago, their valuations were lowered. They were lowered. So there will be no property tax increase. Poor old Scotts Bluff County was raised 65%. He says we will lose 125 jobs. Well, I have got 125 farmers out there that have lost their jobs. We are not bailing them out. What did these people do before we had the Metro Area Transit? How did it operate? What happened, they got back and forth